

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-7 (Canceled).

8. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article comprising:

a liquid-permeable topsheet positioned at a surface that is contactable with a human body;

5 a non liquid-permeable backsheet positioned at a surface opposite to the topsheet;

an absorbent body provided between the topsheet and the backsheet; and

10 three-dimensional gathers formed at the topsheet side to be raised at both side portions in a longitudinal direction of the absorbent body;

wherein the backsheet includes folding portions which are folded up to the topsheet side along both side portions in the longitudinal direction of the absorbent body;

15 wherein a part of each of the folding portions is adhered to the topsheet at a corresponding attachment portion to be flat along both side portions in the longitudinal direction of the absorbent body;

wherein the topsheet includes adhesion sections along both 20 side portions in the longitudinal direction of the absorbent body at each of which the corresponding attachment portion of the

topsheet is folded up to the topsheet side and adhered to the topsheet;

wherein non liquid-permeable nonwoven fabrics are adhered to surfaces that are opposite to surfaces of the folding portions that face the topsheet to form the three-dimensional gathers;

25 wherein the non liquid-permeable nonwoven fabrics the three-dimensional gathers are adhered to the flat folding portions so as to form flat root portions of the three-dimensional gathers along both side portions in the longitudinal direction of the

30 absorbent body; and

wherein the folding portions constitute at least a part of the three-dimensional gathers are raised from the flat root portions along both side portions in the longitudinal direction of the absorbent body.

9. (Currently Amended) The absorbent article according to claim 8, wherein the three-dimensional gathers comprise the folding portions and the non liquid-permeable nonwoven fabrics which are at least partially adhered to the folding portions, and 5 wherein the three-dimensional gathers have free ends structured with the non liquid-permeable nonwoven fabrics.

Claim 10 (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) The absorbent article according to claim [[10]] 9, wherein the non liquid-permeable nonwoven fabrics are adhered to the backsheet from adhesion starting points that are at an inner side in a width direction than folding starting 5 points of the folding portions.

12. (Withdrawn - Currently Amended) The absorbent article according to claim [[9]] 8, wherein [[::]] the backsheet includes a ramie nonwoven fabric. ; and the non liquid-permeable nonwoven fabrics are adhered to surfaces of the folding portions that face 5 the topsheet.

Claim 13-20 (Canceled).

21. (Currently Amended) An inner absorbent article, comprising:

a liquid-permeable topsheet positioned at a surface that is contactable with a human body;

5 a non liquid-permeable backsheet positioned at a surface opposite to the topsheet;

an absorbent body provided between the topsheet and the backsheet; and

10 three-dimensional gathers formed at the topsheet side to be raised at both side portions in a longitudinal direction of the absorbent body;

 wherein the backsheet includes folding portions which are folded up to the topsheet side along both side portions in the longitudinal direction of the absorbent body;

15 wherein a part of each of the folding portions is adhered to the topsheet at a corresponding attachment portion to be flat along both side portions in the longitudinal direction of the absorbent body;

20 wherein the topsheet includes adhesion sections along both side portions in the longitudinal direction of the absorbent body at each of which the corresponding attachment portion of the topsheet is folded up to the topsheet side and adhered to the topsheet;

25 wherein non liquid-permeable nonwoven fabrics are adhered to surfaces that are opposite to surfaces of the folding portions that face the topsheet to form the three-dimensional gathers;

wherein the non liquid-permeable nonwoven fabrics three-dimensional gathers are adhered to the flat folding portions so as to form flat root portions of the three-dimensional gathers along both side portions in the longitudinal direction of the absorbent body; and

wherein the ~~folding portions constitute at least a part of~~
the three-dimensional gathers are raised from the flat root
portions along both side portions in the longitudinal direction
35 of the absorbent body.

Claim 22 (Canceled).